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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 12 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 12 March 2007 regarding the shelling of villages in Upper Abkhazia, Georgia, on 11 March 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-27028 (E) 160307

Annex to the identical letters dated 12 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

12 March 2007

On 11 March 2007, at about 22.10, villages of Upper Abkhazia came under fire by military helicopters that, as preliminary information indicates, crossed Georgia's state border with the Russian Federation from the north.

The shelling caused damage to the office of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, a school and police buildings stationed in the village of Chkhalta, as well as the local infrastructure, especially in the villages of Azhara, Kvabchara and Ptishi. No casualties were reported.

Within one hour of the incident, the Georgian side notified immediately and demanded explanations from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in Moscow. The Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Conflict Resolution contacted the Abkhazian side for appropriate explanations. Information was transmitted to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the partner countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns this act as aiming at hindering the stabilization and reconstruction processes having developed actively in Upper Abkhazia in the recent period and at escalating tension in the region, as well as being directed against peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The Georgian side expects immediate action to be taken by the United Nations Observer Mission and insists that the incident be thoroughly investigated and appropriate conclusions provided in the shortest possible period.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expects the Russian side to give its own explanations concerning the incident.